

The Library Assistant:

The Official Journal of the Library Assistants' Association.

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

Editorial	194
Twenty-third Annual Report	195
The L.A.A. Roll of Honour (<i>continued</i>)	201
Proceedings	203

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The **Twenty-third Annual Meeting** will be held at the **National Library for the Blind**, 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, on **Wednesday, 19th June, at 7 p.m.**

There will be no Ballot this year, but nominations for Officers and two vacancies on the London side of the Council are invited, and must reach the Honorary Secretary not later than the last post of June 11th. Two members are also required to audit the accounts, and nominations should reach the Honorary Secretary at the same time.

The business of the Meeting will include the adoption of the Annual Report, an **address by Miss Ethel Gerard**, a discussion of library affairs with particular reference to the Association's relation thereto, and other items of general interest to members.

The Council appeals to members for a good attendance on this occasion: the uncertainty of the future demands the existence of a united, stable and alert body ready to deal wisely and decisively with any situation that may arise. The Association is such a body, but it needs the sympathy, cohesion and help of every member if it is to fulfil its purpose satisfactorily. Let every member realise his or her responsibility to the Association in these anxious times by supporting the Council on this occasion, for it is only by the support and encouragement of the whole membership that the Council can pursue its course.

South Coast Branch.—*Annual Election of Officers and Committee.*—Nominations for Officers and Committee for the ensuing year should be sent to the Acting Honorary Secretary not later than June 12th.

The **Sixth Annual Meeting of the Branch** will be held, by kind permission of Miss Marian Frost, at the **Worthing Public Library**, on **Wednesday, July 3rd.**

The **Annual Open Business Meeting** will take place at 7 p.m., and will be followed by a short "**Magazine Meeting**." If the weather is favourable it is hoped to arrange a ramble either to Cissbury or Salvington prior to the meeting.

ETHEL GERARD,
Acting Honorary Secretary.

EDITORIAL.

The Late Miss E. W. Austin.—It is with deep grief that we record the sudden death of Miss E. W. Austin, librarian of the National Library for the Blind for more than twelve years. Since the commencement of the present war, no librarian has proved a more practical friend of the L.A.A. than Miss Austin. She placed her library at the regular disposal of the Association for Council and General Meetings, and usually took part in discussions on matters concerning the training or welfare of library assistants. We count it a privilege to have been brought into contact with one of such personality, noble ideals and organizing ability as Miss Austin. A brief account of her career and of her achievements on behalf of the blind will be found on page 204.

Modern Industrialism and Libraries.—The following is an extract from a letter received from a former library worker now working with one of the largest industrial concerns in this country. "It is my first experience at first hand of modern industrialism on a stupendous scale, and it has made on me a most profound and disagreeable impression; produced in me exactly the mood which . . . I found amply and adequately expressed in Prince Troubetzkoy's "Reign of Nonsense" in the January *Hibbert Journal*. . . . I have made many attempts . . . to write you something on my work for the *Library Assistant*." Our correspondent then promises to write us again, "If only that you may warn my fortunate fellow workers who live in libraries against the pecuniary allurements of a post such as mine . . . My few months here have shown me very clearly the desirability for a very close co-operation between industrial concerns and university and public libraries, for which benefit interested firms might quite conceivably pay just as they pay for special researches." We leave the letter without further comment, and hope to print in our next issue some enlargement of our correspondent's views and experiences.

The L.A.A. as a Trades-Union.—Readers of the letter in our last issue from Miss Marjorie Peacock suggesting a reorganization of the L.A.A., will be interested to know that the April number of *The Library World* contained a short article by her entitled "Trade unionism and library workers." Personally, we do not agree with the writer's views as there expressed, and we are hoping that the question will be raised at the Annual Meeting of the Association. So far, we have received no views from members on the subject. May we ask that any replies to or criticisms of Miss Peacock's proposals may reach us in time for our next issue.

CHANGES AND APPOINTMENTS.

MISS A. M. BLACKETT, of the Canterbury Public Library, Christchurch, N.Z., has been appointed chief librarian to the Wanganui Borough Council, N.Z. The Wanganui Public Library has recently been taken over from a Board of Trustees, and Miss Blackett will reorganize the system and adopt methods similar to those carried out in the Christchurch Library under the direction of the chief librarian, Mr. Ernest J. Bell, formerly a member of the L.A.A. Council.

R. BUTCHART, formerly of the Lanark and Dundee Public Libraries, has been appointed temporary assistant in the Newcastle Public Libraries. Mr. Butchart holds all the certificates of the Library Association.

*A. HESKETH, of the Accrington Public Library, has been appointed to a position at the Oswaldtwistle Public Library.

*ETHEL E. ROBBINS, of the Croydon Public Libraries, has been appointed to a position in the library of the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade.

F. P. SINCLAIR, formerly of the Brentford Public Library, has been appointed a temporary assistant in the Newcastle Public Libraries. Mr. Sinclair has seen service in the present war with the Guards Brigade, and was discharged on account of severe wounds received in action.

THE
Library Assistants' Association
TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT,
1917-18.

For the fourth successive year the Council issues a War-time Report, and members will therefore not expect the same fullness of detail that was customary in former years.

It would not be just to the Association to produce comparative statistics as to membership at the present time owing to the large number of men on active service who are still regarded as honorary members, but whose actual numbers it is practically impossible to compute. New members have been elected at every Council Meeting, and while the numbers may scarcely have been gratifying, they may perhaps be considered satisfactory in view of the prevailing conditions.

The Annual Ballot was again suspended, the Council being re-elected without change. Mr. J. Frederick Hogg

has occupied the Presidential chair with that faithfulness and interest which have been so noteworthy throughout his long connection with the Association. With the office, he has, moreover, combined that of the Honorary Treasurership in an entirely efficient manner, and the Council desires to record its great indebtedness to him for his devotion to the Association's service. Having resigned his position in the Woolwich Libraries, Mr. W. Geo. Chambers notified the Council that he would not seek re-election to the office of Honorary Treasurer at the close of the present year. Mr. Chambers has held the position for 21 years, during which time he has controlled the Association's finances in a most able manner, his advice never being at fault, his methods leaving nothing to be desired, the Council at all times having the utmost confidence in his judgment. He brought the Association triumphantly through several occasions of extreme financial difficulty, and most certainly assisted the Association to establish a position which has enabled it to continue its work almost unimpaired up to the present moment, despite the generally unfavourable conditions of business to-day. This is an achievement greatly redounding to his credit, and the Council cannot express too fully its thanks to him for his unwearied service and enthusiasm. For the first time in the Association's history a lady member was elected to one of the chief offices: Miss Ethel Gerard, of Worthing, being returned unopposed to the Vice-Presidency, a well-merited recognition of her splendid work in connection with the South Coast Branch, as well as for the Association as a whole.

The strain upon the Association's finances caused by a decreased income and the increased price of everything has necessitated a most careful handling of the expenditure. The work of the Association has always been conducted upon rigidly economical lines, so that there have been practically no margins for effecting further savings, and the Council has experienced anxiety more than once in this connection. It is with some pride therefore that at the end of the year the Council is able to report a working balance, with no immediate prospect of a worse financial position. At the same time, the Council is considering means by which expenditure may be reduced in order to preserve the financial stability of the Association in as sound a condition as possible. It would be a real help in this direction if all members would remit their subscriptions to their respective treasurers immediately they were due.

With the exception of one month, when unforeseen circumstances frustrated the Council's intentions, meetings have been held monthly throughout the winter period as usual, and have been sufficiently well attended to justify their continuance without question. No outstanding importance could be claimed for any of the gatherings, but they have all served a useful purpose socially or professionally and have assisted in maintaining vitality. *The Council is again under obligation to Miss Austin for having permitted meetings to be arranged each time the privilege has been sought in the splendid library she so ably administers, and the Council's hearty thanks are most cordially extended to her. Two afternoon visits were arranged: one to the Dr. Johnson Memorial House, Gough Square, E.C.; the other to the Sir John Soane Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields. Both were made under very favourable circumstances, and proved altogether enjoyable. To Miss M. E. Day the Council is also indebted for a very instructive lecture on Geoffrey Chaucer which was given at the Bromley Public Library, Poplar.

Notwithstanding all the difficulties that have arisen, the Association's Journal has appeared punctually each month throughout the year, and the credit for this belongs to Mr. H. A. Sharp, who has courageously faced and triumphantly surmounted each obstacle as it has occurred. The Journal has been shorn of its familiar cover, but there has been no further reduction in the number of pages so far, and material suitable for publication has not failed, although the supply is by no means so plentiful as in normal times. It is not unlikely that in the near future some changes in the Journal or its publication may be forced upon the Association owing to the increasing restriction upon the supply of paper, as well as through changes in the postal rates, but the Council may be relied upon to maintain the fullest possible service in respect of the Journal, as it realizes that through this agency it can benefit members most materially. In his editorial duties, Mr. Sharp has enjoyed the able assistance of Miss Gwendoline Rees, who is practically responsible for the dispatch of the Journal each month, and to both these loyal workers the Council offers a sincere expression of its warmest thanks. During the year two useful additions to the L.A.A. Series have been made: one entitled "First

*The Annual Report was passed by the Council prior to Miss Austin's lamented death, and it is a grief to the Council that she did not see this formal acknowledgment of its indebtedness to her.

Steps in Library Cataloguing," written by the Honorary Secretary; the other from the generous hand of Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers, entitled "First Steps in Annotation in Catalogues." The cost of reprinting the latter was defrayed by the members of the Council personally. The respective numbers of this series seem to increase in popularity, no fewer than 126 having been sold during 12 months; the wisdom of the Council's policy in issuing them is thus amply confirmed.

As was to be expected, the Association has suffered through the war chiefly in its Branches, several of which have been in abeyance for a long time. The North-Western Branch, however, continues to flourish, with Mr. R. G. Williams acting as Secretary, and has done much useful work, particularly in the direction of formulating a proposed scale of salaries; the Yorkshire Branch has been sadly handicapped through the loss of active officials who are away on War Service, but at the Annual Meeting held recently the Misses Hummerston and Rhodes were elected joint Honorary Secretaries, and determination was expressed to develop the work of the Branch to the greatest possible extent, which revival of enthusiasm, together with the advent of lady secretaries, the Council gladly welcomes; the South Coast Branch has held successful meetings and has resolved to hand over a live concern to the members who return after the War from service with the Colours. It will be seen therefore that the spirit of association survives; it remains only for the return of suitable conditions when it will flourish anew.

In the middle of the year under review the Council agreed upon a fresh development, consisting of the setting up of a register of members desiring new positions, and an invitation to library authorities to apply to the Association when in need of assistants. By this means it was thought that the Association might become a useful channel for facilitating minor appointments, and at the same time give an increased advantage to membership. The response on the part of assistants has not been very large, but that is probably due to the unsettled state of national affairs, and with the return of normal conditions there appears no reason why the new departure should not grow into a valuable part of the Association's functions. All business in this department is regarded as strictly confidential, and while everything is done to meet each individual case, the Council is naturally unable to accept any responsibility whatsoever.

During the year, the Association has suffered some severe losses in the War. The names of all those who have given their lives appear below, the list including names which

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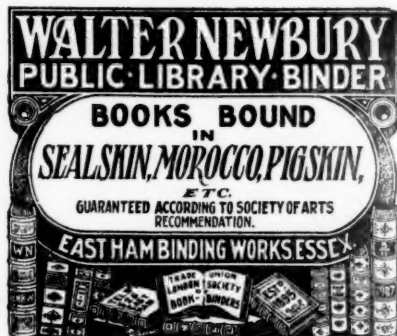
W. & G. FOYLE, 121 - 123, Charing Cross Road
Telegrams: "Foylibra," London. London W.C.

VACANCIES.

The Honorary Secretary, on behalf of a lady member, will be glad to receive particulars of any library position that may be vacant. A senior position is sought, the lady being competent to take charge of a branch, or to carry on any executive work.

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Hon. Secretary, Library Assistants' Association, Bromley Public
Library, Poplar, E. 14.

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION

THE

Twenty-third Annual Meeting

WILL BE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY, 19th JUNE, at 7 p.m.,

AT THE

National Library for the Blind

18, Tufton Street, Westminster.

BUSINESS.

Adoption of Twenty-third Annual Report.

Election of Officers, two London Councillors, and two Honorary
Auditors. Nominations to reach the Honorary Secretary
not later than last post on 11th June.

Address by Miss Ethel Gerard, of the Worthing Public Library.

Discussion of current library affairs.

**All members and library workers are invited to
attend.**

LIBRARY VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS.

The Council of the Library Assistants' Association has decided to make arrangements for receiving applications from librarians needing assistants, and also to register names of assistants seeking new positions. The latter should send a full statement of their age, experience and qualifications, together with an indication of the salary and position (London or Provincial) required. Librarians should state their requirements, as well as the salary offered.

No responsibility in any respect is accepted by the Council or its Officers, the arrangements merely being intended to facilitate the filling of vacancies and as a convenience to Members, to whom any advantages that may accrue are at present limited.

All communications to be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Bromley Public Library, Brunswick Road, Poplar, E.14.

have appeared in previous Reports, in order that their memory may be kept green :

KILLED IN ACTION.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Abey (J. S.), Sheffield. | Lewis (T.), National Library of Wales. |
| Allard (G. O.), Brixton. | Mason (R. A. R.), Eastbourne. |
| Anderson (A. R.), Johannesburg. | Mayhew (E.), Hammersmith. |
| Bacon (S.), Stepney. | Mayrick (R. T.), Wandsworth. |
| Braine (W. S.), East Ham. | Mendham (), Eastbourne. |
| Buck (C.), Newcastle. | Munday (J. S.), Liverpool. |
| Bullock (F. C.), Cardiff. | Owens (T. W.), Kensington. |
| Carlisle (A. D.), Port Elizabeth. | Parker (R.), Bolton. |
| Checketts (H. W.), Birmingham. | Peppiette (E. A.), Liverpool University. |
| Connec (J. A.), National Library of Ireland. | Perrett (E. H.), Bournemouth. |
| Coombes (V. H.), Kensington. | Purkis (H. W.), Westminster. |
| Davison (J. L.), London University. | Rathbone (B. E.), Northampton. |
| Dixon (H. P. N.), St. Bride's. | Richardson (A.), Lewisham. |
| Glenn (F. M.), Walthamstow. | Roberts (H. M.), Walthamstow. |
| Hardy (R. T.), Westminster. | Robson (G.), Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Inst. |
| Harradine (F. C.), Poplar. | Sherwood (C. W.), Westminster. |
| Hart (H.), Mechanic's Institute, Burnley. | Stevenson (H.), Bournemouth. |
| Hindmarch (E.), Sunderland. | Storey (T. B.), Westminster. |
| Hutcheson (R. H.), Glasgow. | Strachan (D. L.), Leeds. |
| Izard (F. T.), Birmingham). | Turner (H. J.), Westminster. |
| Johnson (A. B.), Westminster. | Willmore (W. A.), Erith. |
| Jordan (A. P.), Newcastle. | Young (J. D.), Greenwich. |
| Kennelly (C.), Athenaeum, London. | Young (W. B.), Erith. |
| Lester (F.), Walthamstow. | |

MISSING.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bayley (D. J.), Hackney. | Newman (E.), London Library. |
| Garner (P. A.), Birmingham. | Riley (T.), Birmingham. |
| Hammersley (F. J. B.), East Ham. | Smither (R. E.), Brighton. |
| Meakin (F.), Tottenham. | Wilcock (F. N.), Preston. |
| Moslin (A. M.), Stepney. | |

One of the fallen—Sergeant James D. Young—served on the Council for a number of years, and was highly esteemed, while Lieutenant H. P. Dixon was a younger member who actively identified himself with the Association's interests, and was a young man of great promise. Sergeant F. C. Bullock was one who did good work for the South Wales Branch as Honorary Secretary, and had been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in action. Many of the others whose names occur had worked for the Association at different times, and the loss to librarianship is inestimable. On the brighter side, a number of promotions and distinctions have been recorded, and it is pleasant to reflect upon the splendid progress some members have made in the Navy and Army.

In particular, the Council offers its congratulations to

the following who have been decorated for conspicuous service:—

Ames (J.), East Ham (Military Medal).
 Bateson (H.), Leeds (Military Medal).
 Bullock (F. C.), Cardiff (Military Medal). [Since killed.]
 Burch (W. J.), Fulham (Military Cross).
 Crook (B.), Leyton (Military Medal).
 Fry (W. G.), Manchester (Croix de Guerre).
 Rathbone (B. E.), Northampton (Croix de Guerre).
 [Since killed.]
 Roberts (W.H.S.), Weston-Super-Mare (Military Medal).
 Robertson (R. D.), Newcastle (Military Medal).
 Ryde (K.), Bournemouth (Military Cross).
 White (A.), London Library (Military Medal).
 Wilson (W. S.), Birmingham (Croix de Guerre).
 Wright (R.), Croydon (Military Cross).

The Association's Roll of Honour now contains 400 names, and the Album of Honour comprises 140 portraits. The Council is fully conscious that none of these records is anything like complete, and takes this opportunity of requesting co-operation in order that the many gaps may be filled in.

Although no longer in the library service Mr. F. E. Bolt continues the maintenance of the Roll of Honour, for which valuable work the Council feels very grateful.

The Council again has pleasure in offering its thanks to Mr. W. J. Harris for his kindness in accepting responsibility for the Association's Library; to Mr. W. S. C. Rae the Council is indebted for permitting the files of *The Library Assistant* to be housed at the Fulham Central Library, and to Miss Marchant who continues to superintend their arrangement as well as their distribution when occasion demands. There are others whose names have not been mentioned to whom the Council owes thanks: their services have not always been conspicuous, but have been none the less valuable in their time and place, and the Council realizes that but for their efforts less would have been achieved.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

J. FREDERICK HOGG,
 President,

WM. BENSON THORNE,
 Honorary Secretary.

15th May, 1918.

enthusiastic supporter of the L.A.A. in particular. He was for some time in charge of two of the largest branch libraries at Cardiff, which he conducted with great success, and at the time of his enlistment was in charge of the Central Reference Department. His cheery, genial manner won for him the esteem of his colleagues and of a large circle of the borrowers at the Libraries, amongst whom he will be sadly missed. He was a devoted husband and father, and our prayers and deepest sympathy go out to his wife and son who are left to mourn his loss. It can be truly said of him that he obeyed the injunction of St. Peter, "Fear God, honour the King."

R.G.W.

Sergt.-Major V. H. Coombes (King Edward's Horse), of the Kensington Public Libraries, was killed in action on 22nd March, 1917. Major Macdonald, his Commanding Officer, expressed his sense of the high soldierly qualities of Sergt.-Major Coombes, and his own personal grief at the loss "of a loyal soldier and the best of friends." Mr. Coombes was appointed on the Kensington Libraries staff in 1904.

T. W. Owens, of the Kensington Public Libraries, was killed on or about the 24th May, 1917. He was the wireless operator of H.M.S. "Merse" when that ship was sunk by an explosion. Mr. Owens was only 19 years of age, and was a most "capable and industrious officer." He joined the Kensington Libraries staff in 1913.

***Sec. Lieut. W. A. Willmore**, senior assistant at the Erith Public Library, was killed in action on April 26th last. In September, 1914, he joined the Grenadier Guards as a private, at the age of 17½ years, and after 10 months training went to France. He took part in the battle of Loos, and also in the minor engagements of the Guards Division, up to the Somme battle. He then received ten days' leave, and rejoined his battalion in September, 1916. In January, 1917, he was recommended for a commission, and after six months' training was gazetted to the Cheshire Regiment. He returned to France on July 1st, 1917, and took part in numerous engagements leading up to the German offensive on March 21st. Lieut. Willmore's letters were always of a most cheery description, and full of confidence in our future success. He commenced duties at the Erith Public Library as a junior assistant on leaving school, in March, 1911, and was appointed senior assistant in February, 1914, a position he held until his death. His genial, courteous, and sympathetic disposition, endeared him to all with whom he came in contact, and he will be missed by a large number of friends and acquaintances. He was a member of the Library Assistants' Association, and took a keen interest in his profession.—F.E.M.Y.

WOUNDED.

***B. Crook, M.M.**, of the Leyton Public Libraries, has been wounded and is a prisoner in the enemy's hands. Our readers will remember that some months ago we recorded the fact that Mr. Crook had been awarded the Military Medal. We now understand that on that occasion every officer and non-commissioned officer of his company had been killed or wounded, when Crook, with a shout of "Come on boys," led the men in a dashing and successful raid on the German trenches. His bravery and ability were further recognized by his name being put forward for a commission.

***W. G. Sanford**, of the Fulham Public Libraries, has been wounded in the foot, but we are glad to learn that he is progressing satisfactorily.

PROMOTIONS AND DECORATIONS.

We offer our hearty congratulations to the following colleagues who have been recently promoted or decorated:—

***Corporal H. Bateson** (Seaforth Highlanders), of the Leeds Public Libraries, has been awarded the Military Medal for service in the field on the 20th March.

***C. F. Davis**, of the Southampton Public Library, has been promoted to the rank of quartermaster-sergeant.

Second Lieut. Richard Wright (R.G.A.), of the Croydon Public Libraries, has been awarded the Military Cross for services in the German Offensive. On the same occasion, eighteen men in Mr. Wright's battery were awarded the Military Medal. We also understand that he is recommended for a captaincy.

***D. S. Young**, of the Chelsea Public Library, and a former councillor of the L.A.A., has been gazetted a second lieutenant in the R.G.A.

PROCEEDINGS.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

ANNUAL REPORT.

In submitting the 11th Annual Report your Committee have once more to deplore the restrictions put upon the activities of the Branch owing to the Great War.

The meetings since January, 1917, have been limited to two. On March 29th a meeting was held at Bradford, when the Acting Secretary, Mr. J. C. Handby, read a paper on "The After-the-War Library," which, in addition to touching upon the Commercial Library movement, advocated a closer relationship between the Reference and Lending Libraries. The discussion afterwards was confined mainly to the Commercial Library. An excellent tea was provided by the lady members of Bradford.

The Summer Meeting on June 14th, took the form of a ramble from Leeds to Harewood, and proved a very enjoyable outing. Midway on the journey out an alfresco meal was provided by the Leeds Staff, and thoroughly appreciated. Tea was provided at the "Harewood Arms," after which members visited the various places of interest in the locality. The homeward journey was made by charabanc to the outskirts of Leeds, and then by tram; a most enjoyable event.

We commenced the year with a membership of 75, but resignations and changes of service have reduced the number to 67. Of this number, 21 are in His Majesty's Forces.

It is gratifying to report that there have been no losses among our fighting men during the past year. One of our members has returned to us with an honourable discharge from the Army. Another member, who prefers to hide his light under a bushel, has brought honour to the Branch by winning the Military Medal. The particular act of bravery which brought this honour is one to make us feel proud that we have such a man in the Library Service.

Since we last met our Treasurer has been called upon for military duty. The best wishes of the whole branch will go with him.

In his absence, Mr. Ineson has filled the post of Acting Treasurer, and it must be gratifying to him to have to announce the biggest balance in hand we have yet had.

* Member, L.A.A.

The Officers and Members of the Committee were re-elected; but Mr. Handby, the Acting Secretary, being unable to accept office, the Misses Rhodes and Hummerston were appointed in his stead.

Walter A. Briscoe.—Readers will be interested to know that one of our members, Mr. Walter A. Briscoe, acting city librarian of Nottingham, and president of the North Midland Branch of the Library Association, is the joint author of the life and letters of the late Captain Ball, the gallant airman who won the V.C., the D.S.O. (with two bars), the M.C., the Croix de Guerre, and the Russian St. George's Cross. The book is published by Herbert Jenkins, Ltd., at six shillings net.

NEW MEMBERS.

Fellow: Jonathan A. Merrishaw, Borough Librarian, Newark-upon-Trent.

Members: Chas. H. Bennett, Henry Watson Music Library, Manchester; Misses E. D. McIntyre, Plumstead, and C. A. Wynne, Glasgow.

OBITUARY.

Miss E. W. Austin.—In another part of this issue appears a reference to the kindness of Miss E. W. Austin, Librarian and Secretary to the National Library for the Blind, towards the Library Assistants' Association during the past year. When that was written it was little thought that the same pages would record her sudden and untimely death, which took place on the 17th May after an operation. Our members will understand and to some extent share in the feeling of irreparable loss which must fall upon the community of blind readers throughout the country.

Miss Austin was more than a librarian, she was the spirit and inspiration of the National Library: her one interest was work for the amelioration of the conditions of the blind, and in few cases can it be said with more truth that the record of her daily work is the story of her life. Mainly through her tireless energy and vigorous personality the Library for the Blind has developed from obscure beginnings into the present important and now indispensable national institution. Perhaps the most far-reaching and best known of Miss Austin's successes was the reduction of the postal rate on embossed books from sevenpence to one penny.

But the building in Tufon Street, Westminster, the munificent gift of £12,000 and many volumes from the Carnegie Trustees, and the federation of libraries for the blind, stand out from a long list of many similar benefactions, accessions, and progresses. If, as seems very probable, the future of librarianship lies with Miss Austin's sex, she may well take place in the history of women's work as one of the first and best of women librarians. A representative of the L.A.A. attended the funeral, which took place on the 21st May, at Ladywell.

J. E. Hamer.—We regret to announce that the death occurred on April 27th of Mr. John E. Hamer, one of the Senior Assistants in the Bolton Public Libraries. Mr. Hamer had a seizure on April 26th in the Mere Hall Branch, where he had been acting as Librarian-in-Charge. He entered the Library service in April, 1883, and was in his 50th year.